

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, October 17, 2005

Present: Corey, Johnson, Mehigh, Sanderson, Spring.

Absent: Runyan (excused).

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Judy Horton; Janet Washburn, Parks & Recreation Director; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; Shirley Sanderson; Helen Granger, The Independent; Jack & Tina Johnson; Nina Hall; Larry Friess; Cheryl Warren, The Argus Press; Jerry Walden; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Corey at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the previous regular meeting minutes dated October 3, 2005 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Spring, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the agenda as presented by changing Item No. 1) Consider Festival of Trees Entrance Fee to Item No. 1A, and adding Item No. 1) Excuse Larry Runyan from October 17, 2005 Council Meeting and Item No. 4) Consider Dismissal of the Public Hearing for the CDBG Water Loop for Third Ward.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Spring, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Larry Friess stated when he had new siding put on his house, the company came in and got a building permit but he wanted to know who sets the permit rate. Mayor Corey advised the council sets the fee schedule. Mr. Friess asked why his permit cost \$100 in Corunna but it is only \$30 in Owosso. Mayor Corey advised he did not know that. Mr. Friess asked why Corunna residents have to pay more. Mayor Corey advised the fee was included in the fee schedule that was passed by the city council. Mr. Friess advised he thought the city was kind of hooking the people because when the city gets through with the permit it goes to the tax lady and she hooks the people for more taxes because they make their home look better. He felt the permit fee should be reduced and asked if someone gets paid from those fees. Mr. Sawyer stated he would double check the

fee that Mr. Friess was charged but he knows the city's rates are the same as Owosso Charter Township and Caledonia Charter Township but are lower than the county. If there is that much of a discrepancy with the City of Owosso then he would look into that because he is curious to see if that is the case or not. Mr. Friess advised he remembers when it cost nothing to put siding on your house. Mayor Corey asked Ms. Lawson if re-siding a house would increase someone's property taxes. Ms. Lawson advised no. Councilperson Mehig stated he thought there was discussion a year ago that a building permit would not be required for siding but a permit would be required for roofing. Ms. Lawson asked if Rob Kehoe issued the permit or if it was one of the staff. Mr. Friess advised he had no idea because his contractor brought the permit to the house and that is when he was told by the contractor that he had to pay \$100 for the same permit that Owosso charges \$30 for. He further advised he remembers when no permit was needed as long as something was being replaced that was already there. Ms. Lawson asked Mr. Friess if the contractor got the permit for him. Mr. Friess advised yes but he paid for it. Mr. Sawyer advised he would check into the situation. Councilperson Mehig stated he was not satisfied with the permit business because he was sure there was discussion that a permit was needed for a new roof but not for siding. Mr. Sawyer advised there is no code requirement for siding so he did not think the city required a permit for siding.

Jerry Walden reported that the county took the next step to follow through with the Rails to Trails process by passing a resolution, which was needed to acquire money from the Fred Meijer Foundation and to enter into an intergovernmental agreement between three counties.

EXCUSE LARRY RUNYAN FROM THE OCTOBER 17, 2005 COUNCIL MEETING: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to excuse Councilperson Larry Runyan from the October 17, 2005 council meeting due to illness.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson, Spring, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER FESTIVAL OF TREES ENTRANCE FEE: Janet Washburn explained the Festival of Trees Committee has been trying to think of a way to increase its income. There has always been a donation jar during this event, but other cities that have a similar event charge more than that. She further explained everyone over the age of 12 who donates \$1.00 to get into the Festival of Trees would get a star to put on one of the trees so they would be getting something in return for their donation. Mayor Corey asked if this was a donation request or a fee request. Ms. Washburn advised the committee is asking for a \$1.00 donation to get into the Festival of Trees. Mayor Corey stated if someone does not want to give a donation then they will not be required to. Ms. Washburn advised they would not be forced to make a donation but this is really a fee. Mayor Corey stated if there is an entrance fee of \$1.00 and if someone does not pay, the person will not get in. Ms. Washburn advised yes. Councilperson Johnson stated she understands why the committee wants to charge an entrance fee but asked why this entrance fee is different than the Fourth of July charging a fee and why this committee thinks it is more important for them to make money than the Fourth of July. Ms. Washburn advised the Festival of Trees Committee is not asking for a parking fee if that is what she is getting at. Councilperson Johnson advised no but there is no difference between a parking fee and an entrance fee because it

is still a fee. Mayor Corey advised there might be an issue with the deed on whether or not the city can charge to get into the park. The Fourth of July activities take up the entire park so the city would be charging to get into the park and the Festival of Trees would only be charging to get into the community center. Mr. Sawyer stated he thought the city could charge a fee to get into the community center. Ms. Washburn advised the only opportunity for the Festival of Trees to raise money is through the sale of a tree. There are 30 trees this year and the cost for each tree is \$50, which will bring in \$1,500. She further advised she hopes this will be enough money to pay for all of the expenses during the time the community center is used for the Festival of Trees. She also advised the Festival of Trees Committee felt this would be a way to generate some funds to help the city with the cost of the community center. Councilperson Sanderson asked Ms. Washburn if she kept track of the attendance for the Festival of Trees last year. Ms. Washburn advised she thought there were about 3,000 people last year. She further advised her job description states she is to seek ways to increase benefits from events that are held and this is what she is trying to do. Councilperson Spring asked how far in the red the community center was last year with heating costs and everything else. Ms. Washburn advised she did not think the community center was in the red last year but the heating costs for the community center was \$800 for the month of December. Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to approve a \$1.00 entrance fee for the Festival of Trees for people over 12 years old.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Spring, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: Johnson.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENTS TO THE CORUNNA FOURTH OF JULY COMMISSION:

Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to appoint Laretta Nye to the Corunna Fourth of July Commission for an indefinite term effective immediately upon taking the oath of office and serve at the pleasure of the council.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehigh, Spring.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to appoint Jackie Pospisil to the Corunna Fourth of July Commission for an indefinite term effective immediately upon taking the oath of office and serving at the pleasure of the council.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Spring, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2005 AT 7:15 P.M. TO CONSIDER REVISION

OF ORDINANCE NO. 86-34 ZONING OF ANNEXED AREAS: Johnson moved,

Wagner seconded to set a public hearing for November 7, 2005 at 7:15 p.m. to consider revision of Ordinance No. 86-34 Zoning of Annexed Areas.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER DISMISSAL OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CDBG WATER LOOP FOR

THE THIRD WARD: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to dismiss the public hearing tonight for the CDBG Water Loop for the Third Ward.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Spring, Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Jack Johnson asked if there was a commission or committee in charge of the Veteran's Day Parade. He advised he owns the music store in town and has sound systems available for rent and he would like to provide the sound system at the ceremony in front of the courthouse. Mayor Corey advised there is a committee that is putting the parade together. Mr. Sawyer asked when the next committee meeting was. Ms. Washburn advised Tuesday, November 1 at 5 p.m. Mr. Johnson advised there would be no charge for providing the sound system. Mayor Corey advised sound systems might be needed in different areas and asked Mr. Johnson to attend that meeting.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Sanderson asked if the paint on a tree means something will be done to that tree. Mr. Sawyer advised yes. Councilperson Sanderson asked if money has been transferred for tree removal. Mr. Sawyer advised yes.

Councilperson Spring asked Mr. Sawyer if he heard anything about the sidewalk belonging to his neighbor who has a handicapped child living there. Mr. Sawyer advised he had not heard back from Randy Dorff. Councilperson Spring advised he does not want anyone to dig a gully in the front yard so his neighbor cannot get her child out to her van.

Councilperson Mehig stated he wanted to commend Councilperson Spring for the job he is doing on the SATA Board. He has a very tough job and is doing a great job.

ADJOURN: Mehig moved, Sanderson seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson, Spring, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:27 p.m.

STEVE COREY, MAYOR

NICHOLE COWDREY, CITY CLERK/TREASURER